

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 184408

FOR U.S. TEXTILE DEL

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 11657 SENT ACTION SECSTATE
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS AND GENEVA JUN 13.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 11657

USEEC

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC
SUBJECT: TEXTILES: EC SUBMISSION OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS
TO TSB

REF: (A) GENEVA 8667; (B) STATE 145924

1. MISSION OFFICER CALLED ON TRAN VAN THINH, EC CHIEF
TEXTILE NEGOTIATOR, ON JUNE 13 TO SEEK CLARIFICATION OF
EC POSITION WITH RESPECT TO SUBMISSION OF BILATERAL TEX-
TILE AGREEMENTS TO THE TSB. TRAN INDICATED AWARENESS OF
THE NEED TO MOVE TOWARD SUBMISSION OF THE AGREEMENTS IN
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ORDER TO AVOID ACCUSATIONS OF BAD FAITH FROM DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES. HE STATED THAT HE HAS SENT A COMMUNICATION TO
ALL LDC.S WITH WHOM THE EC HAS NEGOTIATED BILATERALS
INDICATING THAT, UNLESS THEY HAVE AN OBJECTION, HE PLANS
TO SUBMIT THE AGREEMENTS AS INITIATED TO TEXTILE COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN WURTH AS "PRELIMINARY WORKING DOCUMENTS". AT THE
SAME TIME THE COMMISSION WOULD INFORM THE EC COUNCIL OF

WHAT IT HAD DONE AND SEEK COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN THE INITIALED BILATERALS SO THAT THEY CAN BE FORMALLY SUBMITTED TO THE TSB.

2. TRAN INDICATED THAT, IN SEVERAL CASES, HE WAS AWAITING REINITIALING BY LDC.S OF THE PAGES IN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN CHANGED SUBSEQUENT TO THE FIRST NEGOTIATION. HE SAID THESE CHANGES RELATE TO EC EFFORTS TO PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR INDIVIDUAL LDC EXPORTS.

3. HE AVOIDED GIVING CLEAR ESTIMATE AS TO WHEN COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE BILATERALS MIGHT BE EXPECTED BUT SAID THAT THE ONLY REMAINING OPPOSITION IS THAT OF THE UK. ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH OFFER SOME SUPPORT TO UK POSITIONS, HE DOES NOT CONSIDER THEIR OBJECTIONS AS REAL. TRAN, AND IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION UK SOURCE, CONFIRMED THAT BASIC PROBLEM IS THAT OUTLINED IN PARA 3 REF A, I.E. THE BRITISH INSISTENCE ON AUTOMATIC ACTION WHEN TRIGGER POINTS ARE REACHED. IN THIS REGARD, TRAN RECONFIRMED HIS COMMITMENT TO THE FIVE PERCENT FACTOR MENTIONED IN REF B AND CHARACTERIZED THIS AS A MINIMUM. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD INSIST THAT THERE BE NO AUTOMATIC ACTION WHEN TRIGGER POINTS ARE REACHED IN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND IN FACT HE WOULD WORK TO MAKE SURE THAT THE EC CLOSED ITS EYES TO SHIPMENTS ABOVE QUOTAS EXCEPT FOR THE MOST SENSITIVE PRODUCTS. EVEN FOR THOSE, HE SAID HE WOULD GUARANTFE THAT EXCEEDING THE QUOTA WOULD
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LEAD ONLY TO CONSULTATIONS, NOT AUTOMATIC ACTION.

4. TRAN EXPRESSED SOME FRUSTRATION WITH THE UK POSITION. WHILE ATTEMPTING TO HOLD COMMISSION TO THE GLOBAL QUOTA CEILING AGREED ON IN EARLIER COUNCIL DISCUSSION, HE SAID THAT UK IS ATTEMPTING TO IGNORE THE FACT THAT ACTUAL TRADE IN MOST CATEGORIES IN 1977 IS WELL BELOW THOSE CEILINGS.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION, BASED ON CONTACTS WITH COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATE SOURCES HERE, THAT VARIOUS COMPROMISES WHICH LED TO EC DECISION TO GO ALONG WITH MFA RENEWAL ARE UNRAVELING. RATHER, FOR TACTICAL REASONS, COMMISSION SEEMS WILLING TO DELAY WHATEVER FINAL STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO GET UK TO REMOVE ITS RELATIVELY MINOR OBJECTIONS. HINTON UNQUOTE VANCE

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